

[41]

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

B

FIRST READING

You have killed the Author of life;
God, however, raised Jesus from the dead.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

3:13-15, 17-19

Peter told the people:

“The God that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and our other ancestors worshiped
has brought honor to his Servant Jesus.

He is the one you betrayed.

You turned against him when he was being tried by Pilate,
even though Pilate wanted to set him free.

“You rejected Jesus,
who was holy and good.

You asked for a murderer to be set free,
and you killed the one who leads people to life.

But God raised him from death,
and all of us can tell you what he has done.

“My friends,

I am sure that you and your leaders
didn't know what you were doing.

But God had his prophets tell that his Messiah would suffer,
and now he has kept that promise.

So turn to God!

Give up your sins, and you will be forgiven.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

4:1ab and 1ef, 3, 6cd-7a

R. (7b) Lord, let your face shine on us.

or:

R. Alleluia.

You are my God and protector.

Please answer my prayer.

Now have pity and listen as I pray.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The Lord has chosen
everyone who is faithful
to be his very own,
and he answers my prayers.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Let your kindness, Lord,
shine brightly on us.
You brought me happiness.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.
or:
R. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

See Luke 24:32

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us;
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

It was written that the Christ would suffer
and on the third day rise from the dead.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

24:35-48

The disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road
and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.

While Jesus' disciples were talking about what had happened,
Jesus appeared to them and said,
"May God give you peace!"
They were frightened and terrified
because they thought they were seeing a ghost.

But Jesus said, "Why are you so frightened?
Why do you doubt?
Look at my hands and my feet and see who I am!"

Touch me and find out for yourselves.
Ghosts don't have flesh and bones as you see I have."

After Jesus said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.
The disciples were so glad and amazed that they could not believe it.

Jesus then asked them, "Do you have something to eat?"
They gave him a piece of baked fish.
He took it and ate it as they watched.

Jesus said to them,
"While I was still with you,
I told you that everything written about me
in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets,
and in the Psalms had to happen."

Then he helped them understand the Scriptures.
He told them:

"The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer,
then three days later he will rise from death.
They also say that all people of every nation
must be told in my name to turn to God,
in order to be forgiven.
So beginning in Jerusalem,
you must tell everything that has happened."

The gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Easter — Cycle B

Prayer:

Friend Jesus,

Please help us to see you in the world and people around us. Help us to tell the world how great you are.

In your name we pray.

Amen

Readings:

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalm 4:1ab and 4 ef, 3, 6cd-7a

Luke 24:35-48

Reflection:

Today we hear a fun story about Jesus appearing to the Apostles, and while I picture it in my mind as being a bit funny, it has some very important lessons for us. I can imagine taking a walk with some of my friends, the apostles. As we walk, we talk about all of the amazing things that have happened. Our friend and teacher was arrested and killed. The night before he was arrested, at dinner he tells us that the bread and wine are his body and blood. Three days after he died, he rose *from the dead*. Eventually someone we don't know joins our walk and our conversation. We walk and talk for a while. We stop for dinner. The stranger takes the bread, blesses it and breaks it. At that moment we realize who it is. Some of us are afraid that we are seeing a ghost! It's a bit funny thinking that we spent all afternoon talking about things Jesus already knew about but we didn't recognize him! Later when we are back with the whole group, a stranger appears to us and says, "Peace be with you." We know instantly that it is Jesus when we hear those words. This time Jesus tells us that we must go out and tell everyone about him.

There are 3 very important lessons in this story. First, we find Jesus in the breaking of the bread or the Eucharist. Second, Jesus is "peace." Third, Jesus wants us to go out and tell the world about Him.

Finding Jesus in the Eucharist means that we need to be aware of and feel Jesus with us every time we go to Communion whether we receive the Eucharist or a blessing. Once we receive Jesus into our body it should change how we act and how we treat others with love and peace. We should work for peace in our families, our school, our parish, our community and in the world.

The third part, going out and telling the world about Jesus, can be scary. Sometimes we become concerned about what others will think of us if we talk about Jesus or don't do certain things because we think that Jesus would find them wrong. It is hard to be different but we need to remember how different Jesus was when He was here on Earth. He did not worry about that though. He wanted the world to know that God loves everyone and we need to work to make the world a fair and peaceful place.

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What would happen if we all told a couple people about Jesus and/or something that was happening at our Church?

Discussion/Activity:

Materials needed: newsprint and markers or a chalk board, 2 Hershey's Kisses for each child, zip lock baggie.

1. What do you know about Jesus? (Keep a list of the answers on newsprint or the chalk board for everyone to see.)
2. What do you think would happen if we each told 2 people about Jesus and/or brought them to Children's Liturgy or to Fish Fry or to Mass? (more friends, more money earned to help the Church, more people who are kind and loving and who work for peace, etc.)

Let's try an experiment. (Hand out 1 chocolate Kiss to each child. Keep 1 for yourself). These chocolate Kisses represent us. I am going to put mine in this zip lock baggie. It looks pretty lonely in there all by itself in this big bag. The bag is pretty light with only 1 small piece of chocolate in it. The kiss will not even begin to satisfy my big chocolate cravings. It is just like me when I am the only one who knows and loves Jesus and stands up for what is right. Now I will go to 2 people, tell them about Jesus and ask them to join me. They are happy to learn that God loves them, helps them, wants them to be happy and wants them to help make the world a better place. (Pick 2 children. Using the list on the newsprint or chalk board, tell them each something about Jesus. Put their kisses in the bag) Now I am not so lonely. They each tell 2 people. (Have each of them pick 2 kids to tell something about Jesus. Have these 4 add their chocolate to the bag). (Continue until all of the children have been picked to place their chocolate into the bag). Wow, look at all of my friends now! The bag is much heavier too! Notice that we each only had to tell 2 people. I didn't have to tell each of you myself. Once I started, it grew and grew and grew. This is how the Church started and continues to grow. It is now our turn to tell others about Jesus.

Add enough kisses to the bag that each child can have 2 when they leave.